MEMORANDUM

December 2, 2014

TO: TTU Faculty and Administration

FROM: Lawrence Schovanec, Provost and Senior Vice President
        Michael Farmer, President, TTU Faculty Senate

RE: TTU Faculty Ombudsperson

We are pleased to jointly announce the selection of the first Faculty Ombudsperson at Texas Tech University. Jean Pearson Scott has been named Faculty Ombudsperson effective January 1, 2015.

The Ombudsperson reports to both the Provost and the Faculty Senate President, as an impartial facilitator between faculty and their supervisors and sometimes between faculty and students or staff. The Ombudsperson advises faculty and administrators as a confidential resource (to the extent possible by law), facilitates communication, clarifies procedure, and assists with conflict resolution. The Faculty Ombudsperson is not a faculty advocate, but an impartial adviser, committed to assuring due process according to the rules and procedures of the university.

We acknowledge an outstanding pool of candidates for the position, and are grateful to the search committee, led by Professor Shane Blum. It is also appropriate to recognize Professor Bill Marcy and Professor Gene Wilde, who as Provost and Faculty Senate President, respectively, initiated the planning for the ombudsperson position at Texas Tech almost eight years ago.

Through the good work of the committee, an excellent person has been identified as our first Ombudsperson. Dr. Jean Pearson Scott, Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, is well qualified to perform in this new role. During her thirty-five year career at Texas Tech, she has served as departmental graduate program director, associate chair, and currently as chair. Her research has focused on the formal and informal supportive ties of older adults, of later life families, and of aging in place in rural areas. Professor Scott is an engaged scholar in the community and is a collaborative teaching member with the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance. She has received training in communication skills and completed four units of clinical pastoral education at Covenant Medical Center, where she served as a part-time and volunteer chaplain. Professor Scott is President-Elect of the Groves Conference on Marriage and Family, a national and interdisciplinary organization of family researchers.

Please join us in extending an enthusiastic welcome to Jean. We encourage you to meet her, individually or in organized faculty or administrative groups. Her reputation for calm and engaged listening coupled with good judgment and experience make her a valuable new resource for faculty and administrators on our campus.

xc: President Duane Nellis